

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
September 22, 1938

Special Agent in Charge,
San Francisco, California.

Re: Letter from ALBERT NOWICKI,
314 Lorton Ave., Burlingame,
Calif., dated 9-8-38, to
CECIL B. de MILLE.

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto is the original of a letter and an envelope forwarded to this office by Mr. CECIL B. de MILLE, the motion picture producer.

You will note that this letter, written by ALBERT NOWICKI, indicates that he desires to learn if SYLVIA SIDNEY, LOUISE MORAN and JANET GAYNOR are involved in some kind of a case. The letter appears to be written by an individual who perhaps is suffering from some mental condition and while it is appreciated that there is no indication of any Federal violation, in its transmittal, it is suggested that when an Agent is next in Burlingame he might call on MR. NOWICKI to determine the purpose of writing the letter.

If, in the Agent's opinion, there is reason to believe that NOWICKI might have written other anonymous communications, it is suggested that the attached letter, as well as any other handwriting specimens that can be obtained from him, be forwarded to the Bureau for a comparison with other letters that have come to the Bureau's attention.

No appreciable investigation should be conducted, of course, in the absence of a Federal violation, but in order that this office may maintain the proper relationship with the motion picture groups, it is requested that this inquiry be made.

Very truly yours,

N 62 - 51969-1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

J. H. HANSON, SEP 27 1938
Special Agent in Charge.

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&
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JHH:MO
Encl.
cc: Bureau ✓

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILE

San Francisco, California,
October 3, 1938.

Special Agent in Charge,
Los Angeles, California

Bear Sir:

RE: Letter from ALBERT NOWICKI,
314 Lorton Ave., Burlingame,
Calif., dated 9/8/38 to
MCCIL B. deMILLE.

Reference is made to your letter of September 22, 1938.

Special Agent L. D. WINE, of this office, at Burlingame, California, ascertained from GEORGE ALLEN, Superintendent of Mails that the Burlingame California Post Office records disclosed one ALBERT NOWICKI is reported to be receiving mail at 314 Lorton Avenue, Burlingame, California.

BERNIE HECKENKAMPER, Post Office carrier who delivers mail at this address states he does not know ALBERT NOWICKI by sight, has never heard of him receiving or mailing any letters which may be questionable.

MRS. SADIE GOODNEW operates the Cadillac Lunch and runs the rooming house at 314 Lorton Avenue. She states that ALBERT NOWICKI lived in her rooming house in room 9 for approximately two months; that he was employed as a cook in Bob's Lunch, in Burlingame, California; he paid his rent regularly, was very quiet and gentlemanly; that she had no complaints against him and never noticed any abnormal conduct at any time or any indication that he was writing letters to persons of prominence.

On September 25, 1938, he moved away and requested MRS. GOODNEW to forward his mail to Bob's Lunch in Burlingame, California.

J. SANTOS, Chef at Bob's Lunch, corner El Camino Real and Broadway, stated that ALBERT NOWICKI is his assistant; that he does the dish washing and helps prepare the food; that he has been employed by BOB LEVY, manager of this establishment for the past two months, is considered a very good worker, is quiet and attentive to his duties. J. SANTOS states he never noticed anything peculiar about NOWICKI or any indication of any abnormalities either in his acts or conversation.

RECORDED & INDEXED

CHIEF OF POLICE J. J. HARPER, Burlingame Police Department, stated he knew NOWICKI by sight but knew nothing whatever about him.

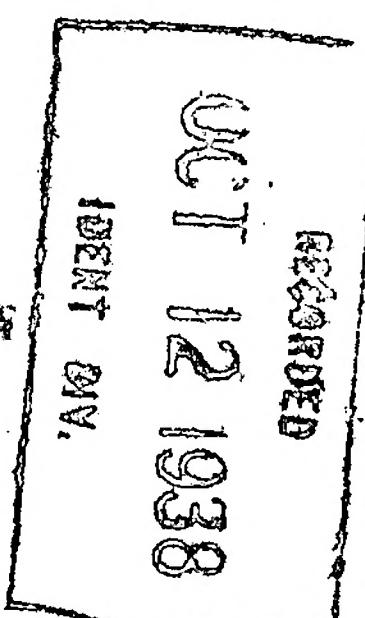
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FILE

Agent WINE located NOWICKI at his place of business and invited him to the office of the Chief of Police where he was interrogated.

ALBERT NOWICKI states that this is his true name but for some time he had been going under the name HENDRICK SIKORA. He appears to be a very low type of individual, spoke very imperfect English and it was difficult to get any comprehensive information from him. He stated he had been working in various places in the east, persons had been threatening his life and that the NAZIS had been after him threatening to kill him. He states they have not bothered him in Burlingame and he desires that they leave him alone. He is obviously a mild mental case.

Upon being asked what letters he had written in the past, he stated he had not written any except a communication to CECIL deMILLE of Hollywood, California, inquiring about an insurance settlement and also inquiring whether there was a plot against certain prominent movie actors and actresses. He states that IRENE BRERETONSKI, a Polish girl in Philadelphia, was greatly admired by him and that he also was in "love" with JANET GAYNOR and SYLVIA SYDNEY; that he was a great admirer of these two actresses and had, in the past, written "fan" letters to which he had not received replies.

ALBERT NOWICKI states he is now residing at the Railroad Hotel opposite the railroad station in Burlingame; that MRS. CARL S. BURGESS is the manager; that he moved there September 24, 1938, occupies room 6, and pays \$2.50 a week. He states he is dishwasher at Bob's Lunch where he receives \$15.00 a week and his meals. He states he is unmarried and he formerly worked for JOE DeROSSA in a sandwich shop at Concord, California, but "people followed me from New York City." He stated that for this reason he had to give up his position and came to Burlingame. He stated he formerly lived at New York City for nine or ten years and the only address he remembers was the last address in New York City about six months ago, 145 East 17th Street, which is a rooming house. He states at the time of the Lindbergh Kidnapping he was questioned and that the NAZIS had been after him and he was accused of being involved with BRUNO HAUPTMAN in the Lindbergh Kidnapping. He states that his enemies are very mysterious and pursue him from place to place. He states he had been using the name HENDRICK SIKORA in New York City and had to change his name for the reason that he was threatened with assassination; that he used that name while working in a coffee shop at 456 Stone Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, which place is owned by LINA CHARRON (phonetic spelling); that while working there he lost his right index finger due to blood poisoning; that he had a claim through the Massachusetts Insurance Company, 130 William Street, New York

City, and received \$595.00 from the New York State Compensation Commission. He stated his reason for writing CECIL DeMILLE was that he understood that prominent movie actresses had been in difficulty with this insurance company. He stated he was in the New York General Hospital, in 1931, for a hernia operation and had his thumb amputated last year at the Manhattan Hospital, New York City. He denies he has ever been in any mental hospital or treated for any mental condition. He states he has been in the United States since 1920; that he arrived in this country at Ellis Island from Turkey on a Turkish boat by the name of "EXOTAVA"; that he came in under the immigration quota, had his passport visaed by the American Consul at Constantinople; that his sister MRS. CECILIA WOJCIECHOWSKI vouched for him at that time and that she was then living in Corning, New York; that about four years ago she moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where she opened a small sandwich shop. He claims he does not know her present whereabouts. He kept insisting "German NAZIS are after me. I run away. Nobody bothers me here in Concord. Some moving picture actresses were after me." He states he was questioned as a suspect in the Lindbergh Kidnapping case while he was working in a restaurant at Tarrytown, New York, which was operated by one MAX KETTLAPER (phonetic spelling). He states he has never written a threatening letter to anyone at any time and has never written an anonymous letter. He denies he has ever been fingerprinted but admits being in the U.S. Army enlisting in 1922 or 1923 at Fort Benning, Georgia. He served 16 months and bought his way out. He claims he has never been arrested in his life, but he stated he was held in Buffalo, New York, at the police department about three years ago while trespassing on railroad property. He stated he learned English in the night schools in New York City. He speaks very imperfect English, is very nervous and erratic in appearance and no attempt was made, at this time, to get any additional exemplars of his handwriting. He was shown the original letter addressed to "MR. CECIL B. D.MILLE STUDIO, HOLLYWOOD, CAL." bearing his return address "314 Lorton Ave. Burlingame, Cal." and he freely admitted writing this communication.

He agreed to have his fingerprints taken, which was done, by the Burlingame Police Department. Copy of the prints is being forwarded to the Bureau, with its copies of this letter and copy is being forwarded to the Los Angeles Field Office with this letter.

ALBERT NOWICKI'S description from observation and interrogation, is as follows:

Name

ALBERT NOWICKI alias HENDRICK

SIKORA

Age

42

Born

Turkey, 2/16/96

Height

5' 7"

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Weight | 165 |
| Eyes | Blue |
| Hair | Brown, thin |
| Face | Full, round face |
| Eyes | Small, piercing |
| Nationality | Polish |
| Parents | Deceased |
| Prior record | Unknown - Admits being questioned by Buffalo, N.Y. Police Department as suspect in Lindbergh Kidnaping case. |

This man appears to be somewhat mentally unbalanced, but was friendly and cooperative.

CHIEF OF POLICE J. J. HARPER of Burlingame Police Department, stated he would keep this man under discreet surveillance from time to time.

It is possible that the immigration bureau would be interested in checking up on this alien in view of his mental condition and the possibility that he may be deportable.

Additional carbon copy of this letter is being forwarded to the Bureau in the event that the Bureau desires to furnish a copy to the immigration bureau.

The original letter mentioned in letter of reference is being returned herewith to the Los Angeles Field Office.

This matter is being considered referred upon completion to the Los Angeles Field Office.

Very truly yours,

N. J. L. PIEPER,
Special Agent in Charge

LDW:FB
62-1685
2 encls.
ccs: Bureau - 1 encl.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
October 6, 1938

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: Letter from ALBERT NOWICKI,
314 Lorton Ave., Burlingame,
Calif., dated 9/8/38 to
CECIL B. DE MILLE

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above entitled matter, the Bureau's attention is invited to the letter of the San Francisco office to the Los Angeles office dated October 3, 1938.

There is attached hereto the original letter and envelope that was directed to Mr. DE MILLE, it being noted that the letter was postmarked at Burlingame, California, on September 8, 1938.

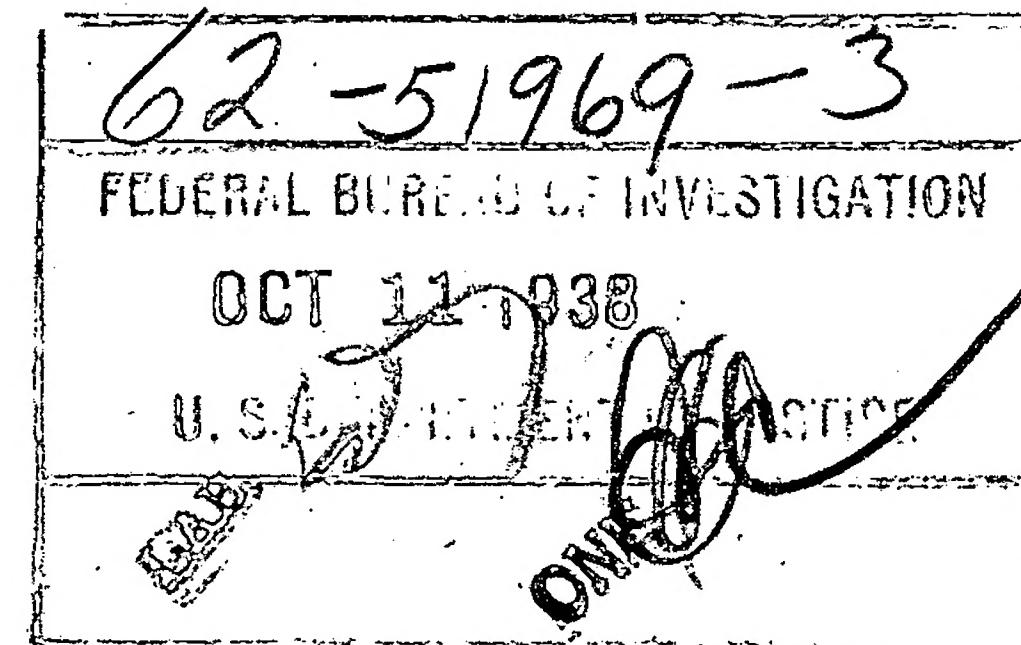
This letter and envelope are being forwarded to you in order that the Bureau can make a study to determine if it has in its unidentified extortion letter file any letters which might have been written by NOWICKI.

Very truly yours,

J. H. Hanson
J. H. HANSON, UC 3
Special Agent in Charge.

JHH:MO
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Encl.

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Copy and Specimens retained in
MUSEUM ORDERED BY THE
ORIGINAL AND MENTIONED IN
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Report

Case: Letter from Albert Nowicki,
314 Lorton Ave., Burlingame,
Calif., dated 9-8-38 to
Cecil B. De Mille.

Number: 62-51969-3

Specimens:

62-51969-3 Q1 Envelope postmarked Burlingame, Calif. Sep 8, 1938 9:30AM.
" Q2 Accompanying letter beginning "please if you..."

Examination requested by: Los Angeles

Date received: Blk 10-11-38 Rec 10-13-38 2 pm ft

Examination requested: Document

Result of examination:

Examination by: Pickering

DK

Bu. File #

October 14, 1938

~~Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, Calif.~~

Dear Sir:

Referring to fingerprints forwarded by you, please be advised that an examination of the fingerprint records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation fails to disclose any data concerning the following:

O
— Albert E. Tamm

~~Copy to
Bu. File Div.,
Los Angeles, Calif.~~

RECORDED

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 62-51969-4 | |
| FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION | |
| U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE | |
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OCT 14 1938
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



W

DK

SFP:EG

October 19, 1938

62-51969-3

Special Agent in Charge
Los Angeles, California

Re: Letter from Albert Nowicki,
314 Lorton Avenue, Burlingame,
California, dated September 8, 1938
to Cecil B. De Mille.

Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith the laboratory report covering the examination of specimens submitted by your office in connection with the above entitled matter and received in the Bureau.

October 11, 1938.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

REPORTER

62-51969-6

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SFP:EG

Laboratory Report

Case: October 19, 1938 Number:
Letter from Albert Nowicki, 314 Lorton Avenue, 62-51969-3
Burlingame, California, dated September 8, 1938
to Cecil B. De Mille.

Specimens:

- Q1. Envelope postmarked "Burlingame, California, September 8, 1938, 9:30 A. M."
- Q2. Accompanying letter beginning "Please if you**".

Examination requested by: Los Angeles

Date received: 10/11/38

Examination requested: Document

Result of examination: Examination by: Pickering

The handwriting on this letter has been compared with that in the anonymous letter file but no identification has been effected.

The original letter is being retained in the Laboratory.

1 - Bureau
2 - Los Angeles
1 - Laboratory

L-7

62-51969-6